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**Letter dated 1 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement of the Chief of the Panmunjom Mission of the Korean People's Army dated 1 July 2003 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Pak** Gil Yon
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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## Annex to the letter dated 1 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

## Statement of the Chief of the Panmunjom Mission of the Korean People's Army dated 1 July 2003

A touch-and-go situation is now prevailing on the Korean peninsula owing to the undisguised policy of the United States to stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Korea is at the crossroads of war or peace. It is, in fact, hardly possible to preserve the ceasefire in Korea by the unilateral efforts of the Korean People's Army side.

On 31 May, the United States side announced its "plan for arms build-up", aimed to equip its forces present in south Korea with new types of weapons, thus totally ditching paragraph 13 d of the Armistice Agreement, which calls for ceasing the introduction into Korea of reinforcing combat aircraft, armoured vehicles, weapons and ammunition.

According to the "plan", the United States will allot 11 billion United States dollars as military spending in a bid to massively introduce modern unmanned aircraft, armed helicopters, the latest missiles, precision-guided bombs, infantry combat vehicles, an electronic command system, and so forth, into south Korea.

Such massive military reinforcement proves that the United States preparations for attack on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have reached the final stage under the new strategy of "pre-emptive strike", instead of the "deterrence" strategy which has been pursued so far.

At the same time, the United States is seeking to impose a "sea and air blockade" and lay an "international siege network" against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by instigating its allies, including Japan, in disregard of paragraph 15 of the Armistice Agreement, which stipulates a ban on blockade of any kind in Korea. This action is aggravating the situation.

Such military reinforcement, massive concentration of armed forces and blockade against one side of the two signatories to the Armistice Agreement in gross violation of it will mean a war in fact.

Dark clouds of war are gathering to hang over the Korean peninsula as the days go by.

The United States has already begun relocating its forces in south Korea to areas south of the River Han in a bid to save the forces from the Korean People's Army artillery firing range and create conditions for making a pre-emptive strike at the Democratic People's Republic of Korea any time.

However, there is no place in south Korea for the United States forces to escape from a strike of the Korean People's Army.

Any possible war in Korea will not be such a limited unilateral war as that fought in Afghanistan and Iraq but the fiercest and hardest fought war, life-and-death battles unprecedented in the world.

The Korean people have steadily made full preparations to cope with such a grave war, are well aware of it, experiencing all sorts of misfortune and hardships caused by the hostile policy of the United States towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the past scores of years.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea sternly warns the United States that it will be held wholly responsible for the irrevocable serious consequences to be entailed by its complete abrogation of the Armistice Agreement and horrible disasters to be inflicted upon the innocent South Koreans by its reckless war action, in particular.

If the United States side applies sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and conducts a sea and air blockade against it anywhere and starts bolstering up troops in and around the Korean peninsula, the Korean People's Army side will promptly regard it as a complete breach of the Armistice Agreement by the United States side and will immediately take strong and merciless retaliatory measures against the infringement upon the sovereignty of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by mobilizing all its potentials, completely free from the binding force of the Armistice Agreement.